

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-21 and 31-32 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment cancels Claims 1-4, 9-13, 18-19, 22-24 and 29-30.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1-4, 9-13, 18-19, 22-24 and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 1-4, 9, 11-13, 18, 22-24 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Zhou et al. (IEEE Publication, “Evaluation of environmentally conscious product designs,” 1998 IEEE international conference on systems, man and cybernetics, San Diego, USA, October 1998, herein “Zhou”) in view of Anderi et al. (Conference Publication, “Design for environment - a computer-based cooperative method to consider the entire life cycle,” Ecodesign 1999, First international symposium on environmentally conscious design and inverse manufacturing, Tokyo, Japan, February 1999, herein “Anderi”). Claims 20-21 and 31-32 were allowed.

In response, Claims 1-4, 9-13, 18-19, 22-24 and 29-30 are cancelled. Only the allowed Claims 20-21 and 31-32 remain active in this case.

The present Amendment is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116, which after Final Rejection permits entry of amendments canceling rejected claims. As the present Amendment merely cancels rejected Claims 1-4, 9-13, 18-19, 22-24 and 29-30, it is respectfully requested that the present Amendment be entered.

Consequently, in view of the present Amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 20-21 and 31-32 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
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